

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

DEC-08-2004 WED 03:20 PM OFFICE OF ACQUISITION

FAX NO. 327 7307

P. 02

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NOV 08 2004

OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND
REAL PROPERTY SERVICES
SPS ACQ PLANNING

Willow Creek Neighborhood
Association
David Dillman
P. O. Box 403
Occidental, Ca. 95465
(707) 874-2350
sasha@monitor.net
Nov. 4, 2004

California Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Joe Mette, North Bay District Superintendent
P. O. Box 123
Duncans Mills, Ca. 95430

Dear Mr. Mette,

We are writing to you concerning the California State Parks and Recreation's pending acquisition and future management of approximately 3,400 acres currently owned by Mendocino Redwood Company in western Sonoma County.

As residents of Willow Creek Road in Occidental, we live immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of this property. We support this expansion of Sonoma Coast State Beach and are hopeful this acquisition will result in a state park that is a model of excellence for decades and generations to come. We love this land and thank you for your efforts to protect it.

Living as close to this land as we do and having worked for years to help preserve and restore the natural integrity of this property, we need to share with you our following perspective on several important public access and resource management issues.

Public Access

- the use of Willow Creek Road to access the park from the east. We strongly and vociferously oppose this concept. Willow Creek Road is a very narrow, winding and dangerous road to drive. It is only one lane wide, unpainted, has many residences, numerous blind curves and potholes in the rainy season. It would be a disaster in the making should it ever be opened up to even minimal public park traffic.
- the status of Willow Creek Road as it winds from the eastern park boundary westward towards the ocean. It is our opinion that this unimproved portion of Willow Creek Road, which is a very rugged dirt road, should be closed as a thoroughfare to the public. A gate could be installed on the road at the eastern park boundary line, with a lock that would be accessible for Willow Creek Road residents and local public safety officials for emergency purposes.

Resource Management

- fire danger:
 - grassland and forest management. Cow grazing has kept hundreds of acres of grasslands under control. If cow grazing stops, an alternative grass control mechanism (such as the reintroduction of elk) must be found. In addition, a long history of timber harvest has left conditions in some areas that could promote high density, damaging fires. A forest management plan should be developed to maintain public safety and enhance forest health.
- people. People driving through the property this past summer set several out of control fires. Closing the park portion of Willow Creek Rd. will help control access and eliminate potential drive through problems/catastrophes.

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- other safety concerns:

- residents on our road have had experiences of being harassed by rowdy types who are out on this property drinking, trashing, setting fires, etc.
- local vandalism has included damage to fences, gates, and mailboxes.
- a management plan needs to be set in place that limits public access to those areas Park rangers can realistically serve. Again, not using Willow Creek Road as an access point and closing the road through the Park would go a long way towards addressing these concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters. We thank you for your efforts in acquiring and managing this new parkland. We look forward to being of any help we can to you, both now and in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

David Dillman
David Dillman, for the Willow
Creek Neighborhood Association

cc: Craig Anderson, LandPaths

Ruth Coleman, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Caryl Hart, California State Park and Recreation Commission

Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

Mike Reilly, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Patrick Rogers, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Michael Stephenson, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation

[Handwritten signatures]
John Kallala
Mammoth
J. W. [unclear]
Patricia [unclear]
Carol Ann [unclear]
J. Canon Bowl
Tom Connella
J. B. Blair
[unclear]
Allen [unclear]
Jim [unclear]

[Handwritten signatures]
[unclear]
[unclear]
Albert C. Finn
[unclear]
Elizabeth Finn
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

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Saving the California coast...one step at a time

825 Gravenstein Hwy. North, # 8, Sebastopol, CA 95472 • (707) 829-6689 • (800) 550-6854 • FAX (707) 829-0326 • www.coastwalk.org

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Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

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Re: WILLOW CREEK INTERIM OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE
File No. 04-097, Project Manager: Richard Retecki

The Board of Directors of Coastwalk urges the Conservancy Board to approve a grant of \$300,000 to Landpaths to manage access to the Willow Creek property. This property is an attractive area for hiking and other forms of passive recreation. Landpaths has an excellent record of land stewardship and access and I am confident the organization will do an outstanding job of providing access while protecting the resources.

Richard Nichols
Executive Director

Richard Nichols

Executive Director



EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support



January 14, 2005

Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco,

It is with great enthusiasm that LandPaths has accepted the request by the State Coastal Conservancy and California State Parks to continue the provision of public access at the 3,373-acre Willow Creek property in Sonoma County after its acquisition.

Since 2000 LandPaths has provided free *permits-for-use in exchange for property stewardship* to the general public on Mendocino Redwood Company's Willow Creek property. This has been a rich partnership that has included surrounding property owners and businesses, local schools and collaborating nonprofits. In addition, LandPaths has worked closely the past two years with Sonoma County's Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and a myriad of public agencies to connect preserved but separated open space lands in the Willow Creek environs by means of a series of trails.

To continue this community-inclusive type of parkland management *vis-à-vis Willow Creek as a State Park unit* is an exciting opportunity and one that LandPaths will continue to work closely with its public agency partners and community groups to fulfill. The partnership formed out of the region's desire to preserve the Willow Creek property in perpetuity is one that can only continue to benefit the property and surrounding communities from Bodega Bay north to the Russian River.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss in more detail our work in Sonoma County.

Sincerely,

Craig Anderson
Executive Director

Cc: Mike Reilly, Sonoma County Supervisor
Caryl Hart, California State Parks Commission
Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
Michael Stephenson, North Bay District California State Parks

P.O. Box 4648 Santa Rosa, California 95402-4648
P: (707) 544-7284 F: (707) 544-7242 info@landpaths.org Outings: (707) 524-9318

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SONOMA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
PRESERVATION
& OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT

747 Mendocino Avenue
Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA
95401-4850
(707) 565-7360
Fax: (707) 565-7359

January 14, 2005

Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Subject: Willow Creek Property

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We understand that the State Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors at its January 27th meeting will consider your staff's recommendation to authorize a grant of up to \$300,000 to LandPaths for the interim operation and management of public access for the 3,373-acre Willow Creek acquisition in Sonoma County. If approved, this grant will provide a tremendous opportunity for a model public-private partnership.

Since 1999, the District and LandPaths have worked cooperatively to provide public access and educational opportunities on District protected lands for Sonoma County residents and visitors. This partnership has included an organized outings program representing 160 public outings with an estimated 3,000 participants on our conserved lands.

Please consider this funding request to permit LandPaths the opportunity to continue its mission of stewardship on newly acquired open space for public access, to manage natural resources, build trails and provide other public access needs. LandPaths has consistently demonstrated the ability to efficiently play this role.

If you would like to discuss in more detail our support for this funding request, please feel free to contact me at (707) 565-7360.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Mackenzie".

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

c: Supervisor Mike Reilly
Maria J. Cipriani, Assistant General Manager
Dino Bonos, Stewardship Coordinator
Craig Anderson, LandPaths

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